

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES



OFFICE OF FISHERIES INLAND FISHERIES SECTION

PART VI -A

WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PLAN SERIES

CANE RIVER LAKE

LAKE HISTORY & MANAGEMENT ISSUES

CHRONOLOGY

June 2014 –Prepared by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| LAKE HISTORY | 5 |
| GENERAL INFORMATION | 5 |
| <i>Date reservoir formed.....</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Impoundment.....</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Size (surface area).....</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Water shed.....</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Pool stage.....</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Parish located.....</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Spillway Width.....</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Drawdown description.....</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Who controls.....</i> | <i>6</i> |
| LAKE AUTHORITY | 6 |
| <i>Association</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Authorization</i> | <i>7</i> |
| ACCESS | 7 |
| <i>Boat docks</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Piers.....</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>State/Federal facilities.....</i> | <i>8</i> |
| SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT | 8 |
| <i>State/National Parks.....</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Shoreline development by landowners.....</i> | <i>8</i> |
| PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE RESERVOIR | 8 |
| <i>Shoreline length.....</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Timber type.....</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Average depth.....</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Maximum depth</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Natural seasonal water fluctuation.....</i> | <i>8</i> |
| EVENTS/PROBLEMS | 9 |
| <i>Special Regulations</i> | <i>9</i> |
| <i>Aquatic Vegetation</i> | <i>9</i> |
| <i>Drawdowns.....</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Typemap</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Treatment history by year available</i> | <i>15</i> |
| HISTORY OF REGULATIONS | 17 |
| DRAWDOWN HISTORY..... | 17 |
| FISH KILLS / DISEASE HISTORY | 17 |
| CONTAMINANTS / POLLUTION | 18 |
| <i>Water Quality</i> | <i>18</i> |
| <i>Water level.....</i> | <i>18</i> |
| BIOLOGICAL | 18 |
| <i>Fish samples</i> | <i>18</i> |
| <i>Lake records</i> | <i>21</i> |
| <i>Stocking History</i> | <i>21</i> |
| <i>Species profile.....</i> | <i>22</i> |
| <i>Genetics</i> | <i>23</i> |
| <i>Threatened/endangered/exotic species</i> | <i>24</i> |
| CREEL SAMPLING | 24 |
| <i>Historic information / Type</i> | <i>24</i> |
| <i>Current methods</i> | <i>24</i> |
| HYDROLOGICAL CHANGES | 24 |
| WATER USE | 24 |
| <i>Hunting.....</i> | <i>24</i> |
| <i>Skiing.....</i> | <i>24</i> |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Scuba Diving</i> | 24 |
| <i>Swimming</i> | 24 |
| <i>Irrigation</i> | 24 |
| <i>Boating</i> | 24 |
| APPENDIX I | 25 |

LAKE HISTORY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date reservoir formed

Earthen dams were built at both the northern and southern ends of the lake in the early 1900's. Three earthen dams were constructed, two on the northern end and one on the southern end. One of the northern dams is located on Hargis Rd. near Grand Ecore at latitude: 31.802244°, longitude: -93.073940°. The second northern earthen dam is located on Williams Avenue at latitude: 31.788445°, longitude: -93.053824°. The southern embankment is under LA Hwy 484 near Derry, LA at latitude: 31.568273°, longitude: -92.974914°. The spillway is incorporated into the southern embankment. The current spillway control structure was designed by the Louisiana Department of Public Works in 1947 and was completed on July 8, 1949.

Impoundment

Cane River Lake is an abandoned channel of the Red River impounded by construction of Cane River Lake Dam (State ID No.: LA 35-00007) in 1949.

Owners – Cane River Lake is a navigable waterway and is owned by the state of Louisiana.

Purposes for creation – Documentation regarding the original purpose for creation of Cane River Lake is lacking. It is accepted by local historians that the dams were built to retain waters within the lake and preserve the community surrounding it.

Size (surface area)

1,350 acres at pool stage
Approximately 34 miles long
Average width of 340'
Average depth of 8.9'

Water shed

34 sq. miles or 21,760 acres
Watershed ratio 16.1:1

Pool stage

98' MSL

Parish located

Natchitoches Parish

Spillway Width

96'

Drawdown description

Spillway

Gate size – Upstream gates, 10’ wide x 5’ deep. Downstream sluice gates, 5’ wide x 5’ deep.

Number of gates – 2 upstream, 4 downstream

Condition – good

Flow rate – Maximum rate of 761 cubic feet per second at 98’ MSL

The structure allows for the lake to be lowered to a level of 93.5’ MSL which is 4.5’ below normal pool stage. The lake can be lowered at a maximum rate of 6.76 inches per twenty four hour period from 98’ MSL.

Who controls

The Cane River Waterway Commission governs the Cane River Waterway District. The stated purpose for the creation of the Cane River Waterway District was for establishing, operating and maintaining a navigable waterway to be known as the Cane River Waterway, known locally as Cane River Lake.

The Cane River Waterway Commission relies on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for management of the fisheries resources in the lake. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is responsible for maintenance and operation of the dam and control structure.

LAKE AUTHORITY

Association

The Cane River Waterway Commission, hereafter referred to as ‘Commission’, governs the Cane River Waterway District, hereafter referred to as ‘District’. The Commission consists of five members whom are appointed by the governor from nominees submitted to him by the following nominating bodies:

- (1) One member shall be appointed from a list of three names nominated by the governing body of the city of Natchitoches.
- (2) One member shall be nominated from a list of three names nominated by the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury.
- (3) One member shall be appointed from a list of three names nominated by the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District.
- (4) One member shall be appointed from a list of three names nominated by the Soil and Water Conservation District authority.
- (5) One member shall be appointed by the governor to serve at large. This member shall be a resident of Natchitoches Parish.

Each person who is nominated shall be a resident of Natchitoches Parish and shall own real property which is situated in and subject to ad valorem taxes authorized for the District. Nominations to the commission must be written and submitted to the governor by registered mail under the signature of the chief executive officer or secretary of the respective nominating body. Each appointment by the governor shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

Members of the Commission serve for a term concurrent with that of the governor.

The Commission is required by law to meet annually and typically meets monthly.

Current members of the board of commissioners are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Current members of the Cane River Waterway Commission Board of Commissioners.

| Member Name | Length of Service |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Gerald Longlois | 02/17/2009 |
| John Methvin | 06/19/2012 |
| Samuel Scruggs | 10/25/2013 |
| Margaret Vienne | 10/17/2006 |
| Van Wiggins | 02/17/2009 |

Additionally, the Commission employs two classified employees. These employees comprise the Cane River Patrol and are responsible for daily operations of the waterway.

Contact information:

Cane River Waterway District Board of Commissioners

Ms. Betty Fuller, Secretary/Treasurer

1679 Highway 493

Natchitoches, LA 71457

Phone (318) 617-3235

FAX (318) 379-2700

Email: crpatrol@yahoo.com

Website: www.caneriverwaterway.com

Authorization

Louisiana Act Numbers 391 and 398 of 1982 created the District and the Commission. Laws resulting from this act appear in Louisiana Revised Statutes under Title 34:3261-3269.

This legislation was amended by Acts 1986, No. 315; Acts 1986, No. 135; Acts 1989, No. 176; Acts 1993, Numbers 727 and 728; Acts 2001, No. 350 and Acts 2003, No. 774 as found in LA R.S. 34:3263 to R.S. 38:2717.

ACCESS

Boat docks

The Cane River Waterway Commission owns and operates three public boat ramps on Cane River Lake. No fees are required for launching at these sites. No services are provided at these locations. Latitude/longitude values for these ramps are given as:

Washington Street Ramp – N 31.774514°, W -93.084467°

Shell Beach Ramp – N 31.663043°, W -93.001019°

Spillway Ramp – N 31.568580°, W -92.974795°

Additionally, there is one privately-owned public boat ramp at Cane River Lake. This ramp is known as Prudhomme's Landing or Point Place. Launch fee information for this ramp is posted onsite. Latitude/longitude values for this ramp is: N 31.693556°, W -93.028275°

A map of the lake including the locations of boat ramps appears in [Appendix I](#).

Piers

Private piers are present and associated with many lakeside properties.

State/Federal facilities

There are no state or federal recreational facilities on the lake. There is a fish hatchery, the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery (NNFH) located along the shoreline of the lake. Contact information for NNFH is;

Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery
615 South Drive, Hwy 1
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Tel. 318-352-5324

The Cane River Patrol headquarters is located at 244 Cedar Bend Road, Natchez, LA 71456

SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT

State/National Parks

There are no parks located on the lake that offer recreational fishing or boating opportunities. There are several historic sites located along the shoreline including Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site, the Historic Town of Natchitoches (a 33 – block Historic Landmark District), and the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, along with several historic plantation properties.

Shoreline development by landowners

Extensive residential and commercial properties are located along the shoreline of Cane River Lake. The majority of land beyond the immediate shoreline is used for agricultural operations.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE RESERVOIR

Shoreline length

Approximately 75 miles.

Timber type

The lake bottom was originally a riverbed and as such is devoid of standing timber.

Average depth

At pool stage 8.9 ft., the depth ranges from 3 feet on the north end to 22 feet on the south end.

Maximum depth

22 feet.

Natural seasonal water fluctuation

1 ½ - 2 feet.

EVENTS/PROBLEMS

Special Regulations

The completion of an approved boating safety course is a requirement for anyone to operate a powerboat on Cane River Lake.

Aquatic Vegetation

Cane River Lake differs from many other waterbodies in that while it is owned by the state of Louisiana it is operated by an active local body, the Cane River Waterway Commission. The commission has a strong presence on the lake including staff members who monitor and make treatments to aquatic vegetation as they see fit. LDWF provides treatment assistance to that staff as requested.

The routine efforts of the local commission staff, coupled with periodic assistance from LDWF, have provided effective control of aquatic vegetation at this lake.

For many years, the most problematic aquatic plant species at Cane River Lake was water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*). Herbicide treatments directed toward this species comprised 36% of all acreage treated by LDWF during the period 2005-2013. However, coverage by this species has been minimal since 2010.

In recent years, submerged aquatic vegetation has become more problematic at Cane River Lake. In 2010, LDWF cooperated with the Cane River Waterway Commission to treat 63 acres of coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) and spatterdock (*Nuphar luteum*) in the upper end of the lake with Aquathol K at a rate of 10 gallons per surface acre. The liquid Aquathol K was provided by the commission and applied by LDWF via injection into the water column. A map of the treated area appears in Figure 1.

In 2011, LDWF cooperated with the Cane River Waterway Commission to treat 60.6 acres of hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) in the lower end of Cane River Lake. The liquid Aquathol K was provided by the commission and applied by LDWF via injection at a rate of 15 gallons per surface acre. A map of the treated area appears in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Cane River Lake, Louisiana chemical treatments in years 2010- 2011.

In May 2013, LDWF assisted the Cane River Waterway Commission in the treatment of coontail. The treatment area included 236 surface acres along 18 miles of shoreline. A total of 5,500 gallons of Aquathol K was used. The chemical concentration used was 2 ppm of endothall. Chemicals for this treatment were purchased by the Commission and applied by LDWF. Maps of the treated areas are provided in Figures 2 - 5.



Figure 2. Cane River Lake, Louisiana Aquathol K treatment 05-13-13.

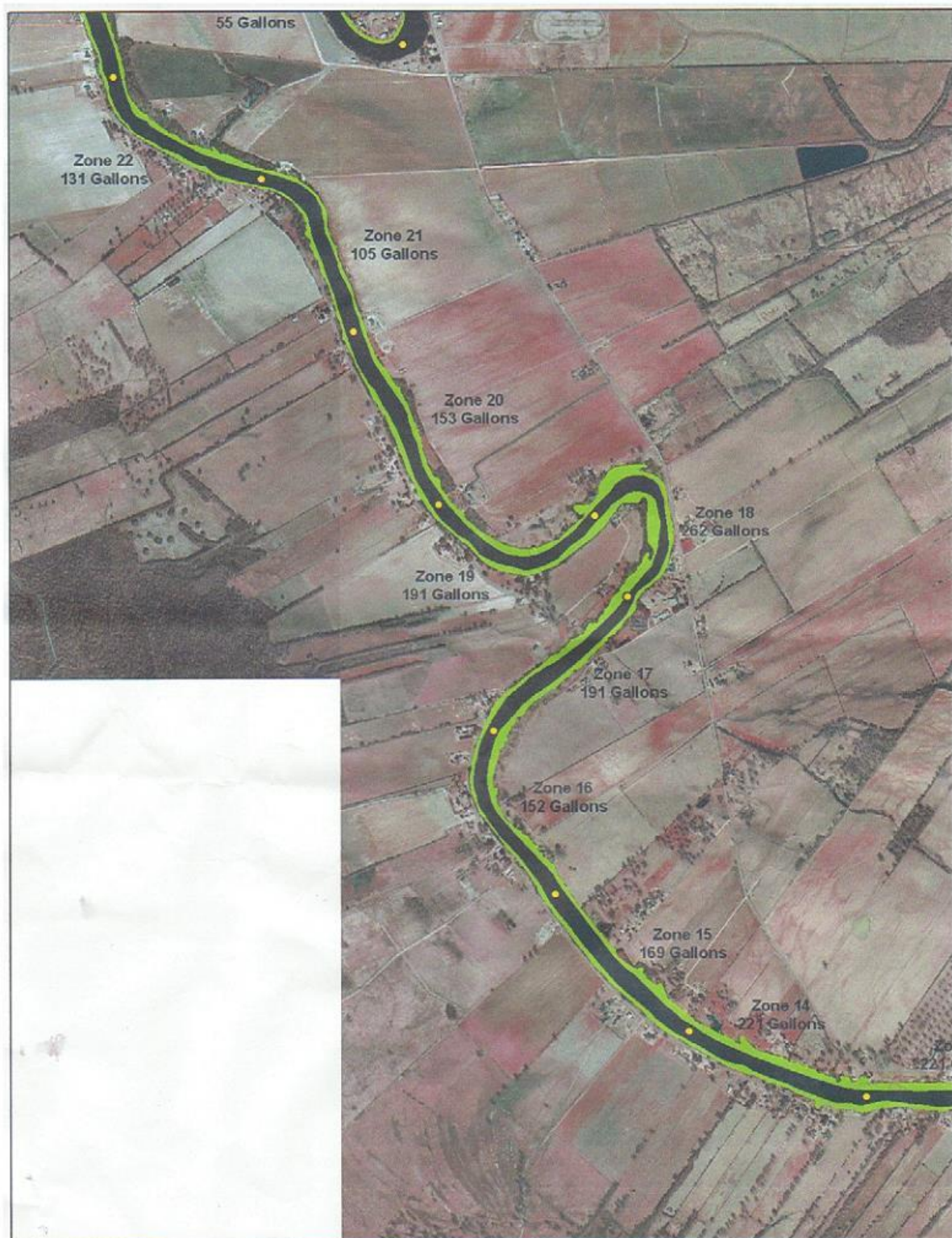


Figure 3. Cane River Lake, Louisiana Aquathol K treatment 05-13-13.



Figure 4. Cane River Lake, Louisiana Aquathol K treatment 05-13-13.



Figure 5. Cane River Lake, Louisiana Aquathol K treatment 05-13-13.

In April 2013, giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) was discovered in Cane River Lake near the Shell Beach boat ramp by LDWF staff during standardized fisheries sampling. LDWF staff removed approximately one gallon of plant material by means of dip nets. Subsequently, a LDWF spray crew made foliar herbicide applications to the general area to ensure removal of the plant. The Cane River Patrol was notified regarding the discovery and was advised to remain vigilant in monitoring the area.

The giant salvinia found in Cane River Lake most likely originated from a boat trailer in the Shell Beach parking lot. LDWF staff noted a boat trailer that had giant salvinia plants on it parked in the Shell Beach parking lot at the time of the initial discovery.

No giant salvinia has been noted in Cane River Lake since April 2013.

Drawdowns

There are no recorded drawdowns of Cane River Lake.

Typemap

To date, no vegetation typemap has been developed for Cane River Lake. There currently are no plans to typemap the lake.

Treatment history by year available

Biological – none to date.

Chemical

The use of herbicides is an important component of the LDWF integrated pest management program. The proper selection and use of herbicides is essential to achieve cost effective benefits and to avoid damage to non-target species. Each product listed has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for aquatic use. Aquatic vegetation will be treated according to the standard operating procedures for the application of herbicides as adopted by the LDWF Inland Fisheries Section. Chemical treatments made at Cane River Lake by year appear in Table 2.

Table 2. Chemical treatments made by LDWF by year at Cane River Lake, Louisiana.

| Treatment Year | Chemical | Vegetation | Acres Treated | Rate |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 2005 | Aquastar | Water Hyacinth | 6 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Aquastar | Water Lily | 4 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| 2006 | 2, 4-D | Water Hyacinth | 30 | 0.5 gal/acre |
| | Aquastar | Water Hyacinth | 6.45 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Aquastar | Water Lily | 1.45 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| 2007 | Aquamaster | Alligator weed | 0.8 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | 2, 4-D | Water Hyacinth | 120 | 0.5 gal/acre |
| | Aquamaster | Water Hyacinth | 15.2 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| 2008 | Aquamaster | Alligator weed | 10 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Renovate | Spatterdock | 2.6 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Reward | Spatterdock | 7.95 | 0.75 gal./acre |

| | | | | |
|------|---|-----------------|-------|--|
| | Aquamaster | Water Hyacinth | 10 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Reward | Water Hyacinth | 6.12 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| 2009 | Diquat E Pro 2L | Common Salvinia | 13.3 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Aquamaster | Water Hyacinth | 30.91 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Aquastar | Water Hyacinth | 5.32 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Clearcast | Water Hyacinth | 26.6 | 1 pint/acre |
| | Diquat E Pro 2L | Water Hyacinth | 13.3 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Aquamaster | Water Lily | 6.39 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Aquastar | Water Lily | 7.98 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| 2010 | Aquathol K | Coontail | 63 | 10 gal./surface acre |
| | Aquamaster | Spatterdock | 59.94 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Aquamaster | Water Hyacinth | 6.66 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| 2011 | Aquathol K | Hydrilla | 60.6 | 15 gal./surface acre |
| 2012 | Ecomazapyr 2SL | Spatterdock | 1.68 | 2 pints/acre |
| | Ecomazapyr 2SL | Water hyacinth | 5.03 | 2 pints/acre |
| 2013 | Aquathol K | Coontail | 236 | 2 ppm endothall |
| | Aquamaster Tribune Aquaking Thoroughbred | Cutgrass | 0.6 | 0.75 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.08 gal./acre |
| | Aquamaster Tribune Aquaking Thoroughbred | Giant Salvinia | 0.07 | 0.75 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.08 gal./acre |
| | Aquamaster Tribune Aquaking Thoroughbred | Sawgrass | 11.45 | 0.75 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.08 gal./acre |
| | Aquamaster Tribune Aquaking Thoroughbred | Sedge | 1.86 | 0.75 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.08 gal./acre |
| | Aquamaster Tribune Aquaking Thoroughbred | Spatterdock | 2.68 | 0.75 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.08 gal./acre |
| | Aquamaster Tribune Aquaking Thoroughbred | Water Hyacinth | 1.4 | 0.75 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.08 gal./acre |
| | Tribune | Water Hyacinth | 1.65 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| | Aquamaster Tribune Aquaking | Water Lily | 4.02 | 0.75 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre 0.25 gal./acre |

| | | | | |
|------|--------------|------------|------|----------------|
| | Thoroughbred | | | 0.08 gal./acre |
| | Tribune | Water Lily | 1.65 | 0.75 gal./acre |
| 2014 | None | None | None | None |

HISTORY OF REGULATIONS

Recreational Fishing Regulations

No special regulations are in effect at this lake. Statewide recreational fishing regulations for 2014 may be viewed at the link below:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations>

Commercial Fishing Regulations

No special commercial regulations are in place for this waterbody. Statewide commercial fishing regulations may be viewed at the link below:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations>

DRAWDOWN HISTORY

There are no drawdowns on record for this lake.

Fish kills

No fish kills related to drawdowns are recorded at this lake.

FISH KILLS / DISEASE HISTORY

Several fish kills have been recorded at this reservoir although none have occurred in recent years. Information related to documented fish kills appear in Table 3.

Table 3. Fish kills at Cane River Lake, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.

| Date | Area Affected | Fish affected (Number) | Cause |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| September 16, 1989 | Between mile markers 40 and 50.1 | Threadfin shad (50 pounds/acre) | Low Dissolved Oxygen |
| August 27, 1992 | Between mile markers 39 and 41. | 2" – 3" threadfin shad (18,048) | Low Dissolved Oxygen |
| September 20, 1991 | Between mile markers 48 and 49 | Primarily shad. Largemouth bass and hybrid striped bass also noted. | Pesticide Spill |
| September 22 – 30, 1991 | Between mile markers 39 and 41.3 | Threadfin shad (6,000) in addition to all other native species | Fall Turnover |

CONTAMINANTS / POLLUTION

No fish consumption advisories have been issued for this lake.

Water Quality

Water Quality information for the watershed including Cane River Lake is listed on the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality website:
<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/69/Default.aspx>

Water quality sampling is conducted by LDWF in conjunction with standardized sampling activities on the reservoir. Measured parameters include pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. All parameters are within acceptable limits.

Water level

No constant recorder information is available. A sight gauge is located at the dam. Water levels typically drop during summer months to undesirable levels, two feet or less, in the northern end of the lake. This water level reduction results from irrigation withdrawals by agricultural and residential users coupled with reduced inflow during that season.

The Cane River Waterway Commission is progressing with a plan to divert water from the Red River through Hampton Lake and Bayou Poisson into Cane River Lake for the purpose of maintaining suitable water levels year round. Personal communication with local Commission staff indicates that construction work for this project is expected to begin in late summer of 2014.

BIOLOGICAL

Fish samples

Table 3. Historical, current and proposed LDWF biological fisheries sampling conducted at Cane River Lake, Louisiana.

| | |
|------|---|
| 1969 | Rotenone – 2 one acre samples |
| 1976 | Rotenone – 3 one acre samples |
| 1979 | Rotenone – 2 one acre samples |
| 1982 | Rotenone – 2 one acre samples |
| 1984 | Rotenone – 3 one acre samples |
| 1985 | Rotenone – 3 one acre samples |
| 1986 | Rotenone – 3 one acre samples |
| 1988 | Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 23 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing – (daytime DC, boom) 1 – 15 minute sample - Fall Electrofishing – (daytime DC, boom) 2 – 22 minute samples - Fall Electrofishing – (daytime DC, boom) 1 – 25 minute sample – Fall Rotenone – 3 one acre samples |

| | |
|------|--|
| 1989 | <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 13 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 16 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 19 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 22 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 28 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing – (daytime DC, boom) 1 – 21 minute sample - Fall</p> <p>Electrofishing – (daytime DC, boom) 1 – 26 minute sample – Fall</p> <p>Rotenone – 3 one acre samples</p> |
| 1990 | <p>9—100' Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, 6 Feet Deep, Mono</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 27 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 35 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 45 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, boom) 1 – 13 minute sample – Fall</p> <p>Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, boom) 2 – 20 minute samples – Fall</p> <p>Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, boom) 1 – 21 minute sample – Fall</p> <p>Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, boom) 1 – 28 minute sample – Fall</p> <p>Electrofishing, forage, 4 samples</p> |
| 1991 | <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 15 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 22 minute sample – Spring</p> |
| 1992 | <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 19 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 44 minute sample – Spring</p> |
| 1993 | <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 24 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 42 minute sample – Spring</p> |
| 1995 | <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 10 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 26 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 28 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, boom) 1 – 26 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample</p> |
| 1996 | <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 12 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 – 18 minute sample – Spring</p> <p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 34 minute sample – Fall</p> <p>Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample</p> |

| | |
|------|--|
| 1999 | 3-25' X 6' Seine, 3/16" Bar, 1 Quadrant Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 3 – 15 minute samples – Fall |
| 2000 | 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono |
| 2001 | 4-25' X 6' Seine, 3/16" Bar, 1 Quadrant Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Fall |
| 2002 | 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono |
| 2003 | Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Fall |
| 2005 | Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Fall |
| 2007 | Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Fall 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono |
| 2011 | Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Spring |
| 2012 | Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Spring 4—300' Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 4—300' Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 4—300' Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 4—300' Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono |
| 2013 | Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Fall Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample |

| | |
|--|--|
| | 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono |
| 2014 | No fisheries sampling scheduled. |
| 2015 <u>Planned sampling activities</u> | No fisheries sampling scheduled. |
| 2016 <u>Planned sampling activities</u> | Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Fall Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono |

Lake records

Lake records on Cane River Lake are not maintained by any known entity. The Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association (LOWA) maintains state fish records for Louisiana. LOWA's record fish list may be viewed at:

<http://www.laoutdoorwriters.com/Records/LouisianaFishRecords/tabid/87/Default.aspx>

Stocking History

Stocking history is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Fish stockings at Cane River Lake, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana from 1993 – 2010.

| Date | Florida Largemouth Bass | | Hybrid Striped Bass | | Striped Bass | | Channel Catfish | | Flathead Catfish |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------|--|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1993 | 35,000 | | 251,240 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| 1994 | 0 | | 45,000 | | 305,000 | | 0 | | 0 |
| 1996 | 0 | | 597,900 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| 2000 | 0 | | 1,000,000 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | | 26,953 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 8 |
| 2005 | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 60* |
| 2006 | 0 | | 25,000 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 | | 25,312 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| 2009 | 0 | | 24,940 | | 0 | | 4,009 | | 0 |
| 2010 | 0 | | 25,580 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| Total | 35,000 | | 2,021,925 | | 305,000 | | 4,009 | | 68 |
| | | | | | | | | | * Adult Catfish |

Species profile

LDWF samples taken at Cane River Lake show the following species to be present in the lake (Table 5).

Table 5. Fish species collected by LDWF sampling of Cane River Lake, Louisiana.

Paddlefish Family, POLYODONTIDAE

Paddlefish, *Polyodon spathula*

Gar Family, LEPISOSTEIDAE

Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Winchell)

Bowfin Family, AMIIDAE

Bowfin, *Amia calva* Linnaeus

Herring Family, CLUPEIDAE

Gizzard shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum* (Lesueur)

Threadfin shad, *Dorosoma petenense* (Günther)

Minnow Family, CYPRINIDAE

Blacktail shiner, *Cyprinella venusta* (Girard)

Common Carp, *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus

Golden shiner, *Notemigonus crysoleucas* (Mitchill)

Weed shiner, *Notropis texanus* (Girard)

Bullhead minnow, *Pimephales vigilax* (Baird and Girard)

Fathead minnow, *Pimephales promelas*

Goldfish, *Carassius auratus* (Linnaeus)

Sucker Family, CATOSTOMIDAE

Bigmouth buffalo, *Ictiobus cyprinellus* (Valenciennes)

Smallmouth buffalo, *Ictiobus bubalus* (Rafinesque)

Black buffalo, *Ictiobus niger* (Rafinesque)

River carpsucker, *Carpionodes carpio*

Lake chubsucker, *Erimyzon sucetta* (Lacépède)

Freshwater Catfish Family, ICTALURIDAE

Black bullhead, *Ameiurus melas* (Rafinesque)

Yellow bullhead, *Ameiurus natalis* (Lesueur)

Brown bullhead, *Ameiurus nebulosus* (Lesueur)

Blue catfish, *Ictalurus furcatus* (Lesueur)

Channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus* (Rafinesque)

Tadpole madtom, *Noturus gyrinus* (Mitchill)

Flathead catfish, *Pylodictis olivaris* (Rafinesque)

Killifish Family, CYPRINODONTIDAE

Golden topminnow, *Fundulus chrysotus* (Günther)

Livebearer Family, POECILIIDAE
Western mosquitofish, *Gambusia affinis* (Baird and Girard)

Silverside Family, Atherinidae
Brook silverside, *Labidesthes sicculus* (Cope)
Mississippi silverside, *Menidia audens* (Hay)

Temperate Bass Family, Percichthyidae
Yellow bass, *Morone mississippiensis* (Jordan and Eigenmann)
Striped bass, *Morone saxatilis* (Walbaum)
Hybrid striped bass, *Morone saxatilis* X *chrysops*

Sunfish Family, Centrarchidae
Green sunfish, *Lepomis cyanellus* Rafinesque
Warmouth, *Lepomis gulosus* (Cuvier)
Orangespotted sunfish, *Lepomis humilis* (Girard)
Bluegill, *Lepomis macrochirus* (Rafinesque)
Dollar sunfish, *Lepomis marginatus* (Holbrook)
Longear sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis* (Rafinesque)
Redear sunfish, *Lepomis microlophus* (Günther)
Redspotted sunfish, *Lepomis punctatus* (Valenciennes)
Northern largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides* (Lacépède)
White crappie, *Pomoxis annularis* Rafinesque
Black crappie, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* (Lesueur)

Perch Family, Percidae
Logperch, *Percina caprodes* (Rafinesque)
Freckled darter, *Percina lenticula* (Richards and Knapp)

Drum Family, Sciaenidae
Freshwater drum, *Aplodinotus grunniens* (Rafinesque)

Genetics

Cane River Lake was stocked with 35,000 Florida strain largemouth bass in 1993. Florida strain largemouth bass were stocked into the reservoir to incorporate a genetic trait associated with larger sized adult fish. Results derived from genetic analysis of samples taken from electrofishing in year 2007 are detailed in Table 6.

Table 6. Genetic analysis of largemouth bass taken from Cane River Lake, Louisiana.

| Year | Number | Northern | Florida | Hybrid | Florida Influence |
|------|--------|----------|---------|--------|-------------------|
| 2007 | 84 | 75% | 6% | 19% | 25% |

Threatened/endangered/exotic species

No threatened or endangered species of fish are found in Cane River Lake reservoir.

Several non-native plants are known to occur in Cane River Lake including; water hyacinth, alligator weed, hydrilla, and giant salvinia.

CREEL SAMPLING

Historic information / Type

A creel survey was initiated in January 1989 to determine angler effort and catch rates. This access point survey was conducted on four weekend days and two weekdays per month during the calendar year of 1989. In 1996, a second access point creel survey was conducted for an eight month period between March and October. The survey dates included four weekend days and two weekdays each month.

Current methods

No creel census survey currently underway on the reservoir.

Hydrological changes

None noted in recent years.

WATER USE

Hunting

There are no waterbody specific hunting regulations in place. State regulations are in effect.

Skiing

This reservoir is a popular destination for skiing and recreational boating.

Scuba Diving

None noted.

Swimming

No designated swimming areas are provided at Cane River Lake.

Irrigation

Lake water is used for lawn irrigation by shoreline property owners. Agricultural irrigation withdrawals are significant along the central and lower sections of the lake.

Boating

The Cane River Waterway Commission has established specific boating regulations for Cane River Lake. These rules may be viewed at <http://www.caneriverwaterway.com/Rules.aspx>.

APPENDIX I
([return to boat docks](#))

Cane River Lake Map

